
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

August 22, 2006

Minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Transportation Conformity Working Group held its meeting at the SCAG office in Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Harry Baldwin, Chair, City of San Gabriel.

In Attendance:

Sam Alameddine	Caltrans Dist. 7
Mahmoud Anjomshoaa	South Gate
John Asuncion	SCAG
Grace Balmir	FTA/FHWA
Jennifer Bergener (Chair)	OCTA
Stephen Chang	Katz, Okasu & Associates
Herman Cheng	MTA
Keith Cooper	Jones & Stokes
Sheryll Del Rosario	SCAG
Maged El-Rabaa	LA County DPW
Barbara Fortman	Newhall Land
Carol Gomez	AQMD
David Guntini	PacSun, LLC
Kathryn Higgins	AQMD
Lori Huddleston	METRO
Ben Kho	DMJM Harris
DouglasKim	METRO
Phillip Law	SCAG
Tony Louka	Caltrans Dist. 8
Lee Lisecki	Jones & Stokes
Betty Mann	SCAG
Jonathan Nadler	SCAG
Olufemi Odufalu	Caltrans Dist. 8
Sylvia Patsaouras	SCAG
Joe Power	Rincon Consultants

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Dave Rubinow	MTA
Jamal Salmon	CHZM Hill
Eyvonne Sells	AQMD
Arnie Sherwood	ITS, UCB
Wally Stokes	LA-BOE
Eddie Torres	RBF Consulting
Vinh Trinh	PBS & J
Barry Witler	LA County DPW
Andrew Yoon	Caltrans Dist. 7

Via Teleconference:

Arman Behtash	Caltrans Dist. 12
Mike Brady	Caltrans Headquarters
Ben Cacatian	Ventura County APCD
Jackie Clayton	Caltrans Dist. 11
Paul Fagan	Caltrans Dist. 8
Sandy Johnson	Caltrans Dist. 11
Keith Lay	LSA Associates
Jean Mazur	Federal Highway Administration
Karina O'Connor	EPA Region 9
Roger Owen	City of Murrietta
Brian Stevenson	Rick Engineering
Carla Walecka	Transportation Corridor Agencies

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Jennifer Bergener, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

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5.1.1 Approve July 25, 2006 Meeting Minutes

No comments were made.

MOTION was made to APPROVE the minutes were. MOTION
SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTIP Update

Rosemary Ayala, SCAG, stated that the 2006 RTIP was approved by the SCAG Executive Committee on July 27, 2006. The document is now before the State and Federal agencies for review. The due date for the State to submit the Federal State Transportation Improvement Program to the Federal agencies, of which the RTIP is a component of, is September 1, 2006.

4.2 RTP Update

Philip Law, SCAG, stated that staff had forwarded two amendments to the Federal agencies. Currently, the 2004 Plan amendment for the Omnitrans SBX Transit Project and the Center Line Amendment are under review. The Federal agencies will issue one conformity determination covering both RTP amendments and the 2006 RTIP. This should be issued in early October.

SCAG is continuing to address the new SAFETEA-LU requirements, specifically the July 1, 2007 deadline to comply with the new planning requirements. Two main strategies are being used. The first is to do a Gap Analysis to bring the current 2004 Plan into compliance. The second strategy is to accelerate the schedule for the full RTP update which will occur by December 2007. Staff plans on having a draft Gap Analysis released in December 2006 and have the Board consider adopting it in February or March 2007.

Staff will forward the TCWG the schedule for the SAFETEA-LU effort and the accelerated RTP.

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4.3 TCM Update

Jessica Kirchner, SCAG, updated the committee on the current progress of the TCMs. Two TCM Working Group meetings were held. Comments are still being accepted until August 25, 2006.

Staff will ask SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee to approve SCAG's portion of the Draft 2007 AQMP for the South Coast Air Basin in September. Staff will then bring the draft plan for review at the September meeting of the TCWG.

Staff also discussed the Reasonable Available Control Measures (RACM) analysis. Staff noted that the RACM analysis involved a review of candidate TCMs within the nonattainment areas in California and other nonattainment areas in other states. Staff determined that none of the candidate TCMs reviewed were feasible, and therefore, did not meet the criteria for RACM implementation.

4.4 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

There Working Group considered 12 interagency review forms to determine whether the projects were of air quality concern and required a qualitative PM hot spot analysis. The review concluded the following:

LA0C40	Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required (needs clarifying information in NEPA document)
ORA120535	Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required
LA17850	Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required
LA18850	Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required
LA0D477	On hold – to be discussed at upcoming Subcommittee meeting
ORA00147	On hold – to be discussed at upcoming Subcommittee meeting
RIV010203	Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required
RIV060118	On hold – needs clarifying traffic data
SBd0H760	On hold – needs clarifying traffic data
LAOC8057	Exempt from hot spot analysis
LA996381	Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required
LA996348	Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required

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4.5 PM Hot Spot Process

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, discussed further refining the review process through the creation of a list of primary contacts at the County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) and also at each Caltrans district. The role of each contact person is to collect and forward the interagency forms to SCAG. Mr. Nadler explained that the goal of the primary contact list is to create more efficiency in the submittal of projects.

Mike Brady, Caltrans, recommended preparing a procedural guideline that outlines the basic process and requirements for PM Hot Spot Requirement Review, which would be provided to the CTCs and project sponsors. Jean Mazur, FHWA, stated that she would draft language for the guideline.

Grace Balmir, FTA/FHWA, provided additional suggestions on improving the PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Form, which involved disclosing mileage information, as well as providing a box that states which environmental documentation project sponsors' have already completed or have available. Ms. Balmir also advised clarifying "Scheduled Date of Federal Action." She would like the form to distinguish whether the project is anticipated to go out or has gone out for public comment.

Mr. Tony Louka, Caltrans District 8, asked whether PM10 projects outside the South Coast Air Basin have to be brought to the TCWG. Mr. Brady confirmed that PM10 projects outside the SCAB region, such as Coachella Valley and San Bernardino County, have to be brought to the TCWG and undergo the same review process.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

No new items to report.

6.0 INFORMATION SHARING

Mr. Brady announced that the Statewide Conformity Working Group will be held at the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in Oakland on September 28, 2006.

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Mr. Brady will provide additional information on conference call numbers and teleconference sites.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Honorable Jennifer Bergener, adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.
The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at SCAG's office.**